

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14

EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /157 W
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R 040936Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 2693

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GDR ON FRG SUNDAY DRIVING BAN

REF: BERLIN 2014

1. BRIEF BUT PROMINENT ITEM IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON
DECEMBER 1 CITED DIE ZEIT OF NOVEMBER 30 AS SOURCE FOR
HEADLINE TO EFFECT THAT FRG SUNDAY DRIVING BAN VIOLATED
QA. SECOND HALF OF THEO SOMMER COMMENTARY IN DIE ZEIT
PRINTED VERBATIM IN ND STATED: "IT REMAINS A FACT
THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1949, BERLIN TRAFFIC IS
BEING HINDERED BY THE FRG, ALTHOUGH THE QA STATES THAT
TRANSIT TRAFFIC SHOULD FLOW 'WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT'. AND
IT REMAINS A FACT THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE QA WAS
VIOLATED BY A FEDERAL LAW; (INDEED) THE BONN DECISION
TECHNICALLY ALSO DISREGARDS THE SOVIET GUARANTEE FOR
BERLIN TRAFFIC. DID BONN AT LEAST CONSULT THE GDR IN
THIS INSTANCE OF FORCE MAJEURE? OR DID IT FORGET?

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HOPEFULLY NOT. (FOR) EAST BERLIN COULD THEN EASILY MAKE

A PRECEDENCE CASE OF IT--PERHAPS BY RESTRICTING TRANSIT TRAFFIC BECAUSE OF LARGE-SCALE MANEUVERS. THE BERLIN SETTLEMENT IS TOO DELICATE TO BE ENDANGERED BY BUREAUCRATIC VIOLATIONS AGAINST THOSE STATED ELEMENTS OF THE QA BASED ON MUTUAL INTERESTS"(SIC). ND ITEM CONCLUDED WITH MATTER-OF-FACT STATEMENT THAT BONN DID NOT CONSULT WITH GDR IN CASE AT HAND.

2. COMMENT. CONSIDERING THRUST OF SOMMER ARGUMENT, AND ITS APPEARANCE IN PRESTIGIOUS FRG PUBLICATION, ND TREATMENT SHOULD NOT HAVE COME AS A SURPRISE. PREVIOUS GDR REACTION TO DRIVING BAN (REFTEL) IN ADDITION TO TREATMENT OF SOMMER COMMENTARY, INDICATES THAT GDR LOSING NO OPPORTUNITY TO JUSTIFY RECENT UNILATERAL ACTION ON MINIMUM CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS POSSIBLE FUTURE STEPS.

3. FRG AND WEST BERLIN DRIVING RESTRICTIONS, OF COURSE APPLY ONLY TO OWN TERRITORY AND NOT TO TRANSIT ROUTES, EVEN THOUGH TRAFFIC ON LATTER NECESSARILY CURTAILED AS RESULT. MISSION WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACCESS AND TRANSIT TRAFFIC DURING CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS, BUT IN INTERIM WE SUGGEST THAT FRG AUTHORITIES BE ENCOURAGED TO REFUTE IMPLICATIONS OF SOMMER'S REASONING AND ND ARTICLE.KLEIN

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